

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 OES-05 COME-00 FEA-01

EUR-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /117 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2005

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

UNCLAS JIDDA 5374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SA, MX, TECH

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IN JIDDA

1. PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND MRS. ECHEVERRIA LANDED AT JIDDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 1120 HOURS JULY 31. PRESIDENT WAS RECEIVED BY KING KHALID BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, CROWN PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, GOVERNOR OF MECCA PRINCE FAWWAZ BIN ABD AL-AZIZ PLUS OTHER PRINCES AND MINISTERS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AHMED ZAKI YAMANI (WHO WAS FLYING BACK TO HIS SUMMER PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TAIF IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY). A NEW WRINKLE IN THE CEREMONIES WAS THE SOMEWHAT UNWILLING PRESENCE OF ALL CHIEFS OF MISSIONS, WHO HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL TELEPHONE CALLS FROM FORMIN'S OFFICE OF PROTOCOL URGING THEM TO ATTEND. IT WAS A FEARFULLY HOT, DUSTY DAY AND SEVERAL AMBASSADOR--BUTTONED UP TO THE JOWLS IN BLUE SERGE--SOUNDED DISTRESSED WHEN THEY SAW THE PRESIDENT STEP OFF THE AIRPLANE IN A COOL, SHORT SLEEVED GUAYBARA.

2. AFTERWARDS, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD

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MAS'UD TOLD THE CHARGE THE SAG EXPECTED THE PRESIDENT'S

VISIT WOULD EMPHASIZE THE GOOD FEELING THAT PREVAILS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND MEXICO, BUT DID NOT THINK IT WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS. TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT SEEKING A LOAN, THERE WAS NOT MUCH TO COORDINATE ON OIL MATTERS, AND HE DID NOT THINK A DECISION WOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT AMBASSADORS IN EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY (AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO SAUDI ARABIA RESIDES IN BEIRUT, AND HIS SAUDI COUNTERPART IN WASHINGTON). MAS'UD BELIEVED SOME GENERAL AGREEMENT TO WORK AT ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER MIGHT BE REACHED, AND THAT IN THESE AREAS MEXICO MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER IN SAUDI ARABIA. HE SAID THE VERY FIRST SILVER AND GOLD COINS CIRCULATED IN THE KINGDOM WERE STRUCK IN MEXICO, AND THAT MEXICO WAS A RICH SOURCE OF TALENT IN LIGHT AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY.

3. KING KHALID GIVES A DINNER FOR PRESIDENT EVENING JULY 31; FURTHER REPORT ON VISIT WILL BE SENT AT ITS CONCLUSION.
HORAN

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